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President Eliot's New Declaration of Independence.



At Faneuil Hall, Boston, on July 4, Dr. Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard University, made an address in which he voiced thoughts that have been in many minds, but remained unspoken.

President Eliot argued that the statement that all men are created equal is manifestly not true in every sense. Men are not born equal in capacities, powers or dispositions and under a régime of liberty the inborn diversities of capacity and character in different individuals increase as life goes on, and inevitably produce great inequalities in regard to property and general conditions of life.

Neither have all men any "unalienable rights" to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We and all preceding generations have constantly seen men deprived of liberty, the free pursuit of happiness and even of life. Any rights of that sort with which men have been endowed by nature are clearly alienable in practice.

THE LOTUS Moreover we Americans have often been in doubt whether government really does derive its powers from the consent of the governed; for we have seen in power minority governments as results of elections and also governments under elective forms which were really governments by force. We ourselves at this moment are governing the Filipinos without their consent.

A new interference with the "unalienable rights" of man, and particularly with his liberty and his pursuit of happiness, is industrial government, which now affects the daily lives of men and women more immediately and intensely than political government does.

This industrial government is an outcome of the factory system and of the freedom of association secured since the middle of the last century alike for employer and employed. It is a strong control which is the result of a new sort of freedom. Its great power is derived from capital amassed in amounts which equal the capitalized income of many political governments, such as the American States and cities, and placed in the hands of a few managers or rulers who are generally able and experienced men serving for long terms.

Dependence on wages or salaries is the rule instead of the exception. Every large community is dependent for food, clothing, shelter and even for water on supplies brought from afar.



THE great transportation systems which are absolutely indispensable to the well being of modern society are strong collective agencies, controlling hundreds of thousands of disciplined wage earners. They take account indeed of the needs or interests of large groups or entire communities. They pay, however, scant attention to the individual consumer or producer. In the factory system which necessarily prevails in the most of the important industries the individual workman is just an atom in a complex machine.

The huge monopolistic industrial combinations, the combinations among financial institutions which put great masses of capital within the control of a few persons and the large retail establishments, in which captains are few and subordinates many, all tend to diminish the personal independence of the average man or woman. The trade unions take a strong hand in reducing the personal independence and practical liberty of the journeymen in their respective trades. In short, it is impossible that the

THE clerks, operatives, salesmen and trade unionists
LOTUS of today should be as independent, self-reliant
and enterprising as the pioneers, farmers, fishermen and uncontrolled mechanics of 1776 were.

It is in regard to industrial liberty that the people as a whole have lost ground. A new Declaration of Independence would give vigorous expression to the popular conviction that the natural resources of the country including the public health, are not to be sacrificed to secure immediate profits to a few individuals of corporations to-day.

It would also recognize the direct functions of government in preventing evils and in promoting human welfare; all action by government which tends to facilitate the voluntary division and redistribution of great properties, to prevent the disease and vice which cause most of the degrading property or are caused by it. Between the extremes of society, the few very rich and the few miserably poor, are a host of propertied conservative people in various occupations and conditions of life, but united in hopes and aspirations to improve industrial conditions and commend democracy to the confidence of the world.